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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#30/Reconz-  
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6/8/03

In re application of: Peter R. Fenner

Application No.: 09/227,688

Filed: January 8, 1999

Examiner: Hanh Nguyen

Group No.: 2662

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Jacqueline Butler  
Jacqueline E. Butler  
June 2, 2003  
Date

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USE OF ASSOCIATED  
MEMORY WITH LARGE KEY SPACES

Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

Applicant is responding to the Office action mailed April 9, 2003.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of all pending claims, namely claims 19-28 and 32-40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), based on *Adams et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,498) (hereinafter *Adams*) and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Adams* is in error for the reasons stated below.

As previously pointed out in a response in this Application mailed on December 18, 2000, Applicant claims priority to June 16, 1989 for all pending claims. The section 102(e) date for *Adams* is May 3, 1990. The section 102(b) date for *Adams* is December 1, 1992. The *Adams* patent thus cannot be prior art. The rejection is in error and must be withdrawn.

Application No.: 09/227,688

Application's priority date is the filing date of the U.S. application 07/367,012 (hereinafter the '012 application), which matured into U.S. Patent No. 5,095,480 (hereinafter the '480 patent). On January 8, 1999, Applicant submitted a preliminary amendment claiming priority back to the '012 application which was filed on June 16, 1989 almost one year before the filing date (May 3, 1990) of *Adams*. The priority claim reads: "This application is a continuation of U.S. application no. 08/174,361, filed December 28, 1993, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application 07/952,988, filed on September 29, 1992, now U.S. Patent no. 5,490,258, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application 07/737,147, filed July 29, 1991, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application 07/367,012, now U.S. patent no. 5,095,480." Therefore, Applicant has complied with the statutory requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Applicant submits that the claims of the present application are supported by the specification and drawings, particularly Figures 1-4 and the description thereof, filed in the '012 application, which issued as the '480 patent, and that the subject matter of the '012 application has been carried forward to the present application in the manner identified in the claim of priority. Figures 1-4 of the present application are the same as Figures 1-4 of the '012 application, and the description of these figures, which begins on page 23, line 1, and continues to page 62, line 3 of the present application, is the same as the description of the figures found in the '012 application. Furthermore, these same figures and the same description are found in each of the intervening applications in the claim of priority.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection. In view of Applicant's claim of priority, he has chosen not to specifically address the reasoning of the Examiner's rejection. However, by electing not to do so, he does not acquiesce to any of the Examiner's reasoning.

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June 2, 2003

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Application No. 09/227,688

Filing Date: 01/08/1999

Group Art Unit: 2662

Examiner: Hahn Nguyen

Inventor: Peter R. Fenner

Title: Method and Apparatus for Use of Associated  
Memory with Large Key Spaces

Response to Office action dated April 9, 2003

**Confidentiality Expectation**

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